

OnTheMap for Emergency Management: FAQ

Local Employment Dynamics

Q: What is OnTheMap for Emergency Management?

A: OnTheMap for Emergency Management is a public data tool that provides an intuitive web-based interface for accessing U.S. population and workforce statistics, in real time, for areas being affected by natural disasters. Users can easily retrieve reports containing detailed U.S. Census block-level workforce, population, and housing characteristics for hurricanes, floods, wildfires, winter storms, and federal disaster declaration areas.

Q: What are “workers” and “jobs” in the application?

A: The underlying workforce data displayed and reported in OnTheMap for Emergency Management are a product of the [Local Employment Dynamics \(LED\) partnership](#) and the LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) database from OnTheMap. In this data, worker counts are the same as primary jobs counts. A primary job is the highest paying job for an individual worker for the year. To learn more about this data please see the [OnTheMap Data Sources page](#) and [An Overview on the LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics \(LODES\)](#).

Q: Which workers are being counted?

A: The worker data in OnTheMap for Emergency Management are a product of a data infrastructure based upon Unemployment Insurance wage data and the Quarterly Census of Employment in Wages. Coverage under these datasets currently *excludes* several groups of workers. These include:

- Uniformed Military
- Self-Employed Workers
- Informally Employed Workers

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) provides information on employees and jobs for most Federal employees. See http://www.fedscope.opm.gov/datadefn/aboutehri_sdm.asp#cpdf3 and http://www.fedscope.opm.gov/datadefn/index.asp#location_for_major_exceptions.

A project is currently underway to add Self-Employed Workers to the LED data infrastructure. For further updates on this project, please visit the main LED homepage <http://lehd.ces.census.gov/>.

Q: Why do some emergency event areas overlap?

A: Certain event areas may overlap. This can occur from natural factors like having multiple event types (such as a hurricane and flood) in the same area. It can also occur due to source data collection and processing methods which can result in overlapping areas for the same type of event, such as a flood outlook area or snow probability forecast area. Clicking on an event area opens the popup, which lists all events for analysis for that area. It may be necessary to carefully adjust the zoom scale or position on the map to ensure the desired event area is selected.

Q: How current are the Worker and Population Counts?

A: The worker data are for 2010 (2011 will be available in December 2012, when the new version of OnTheMap will be released). The population data are from the 2010 Census.

Q: When are event data updated?

A: OnTheMap for Emergency Management is equipped with an automatic data reader that checks for updates from source agencies on a daily basis. Note that during active storms hurricane data is updated 4 times per day starting at midnight.

Note that although the application has been designed to accommodate a variety of external event data of varying forms, the availability, consistency, and validity of these events cannot be guaranteed by OnTheMap for Emergency Management.

Q: How do I remove analysis results from the map?

A: After selecting an event area and clicking on the View Report link in the popup, the Report tab opens and the map overlay and highlighted event area boundary are added to the map. To remove this overlay and highlighted event area boundary from the map, close the Report tab.

Q: What is the smallest unit of Census geography for which the workforce and population data are reported?

A: The basic geographic unit of reported data within OnTheMap for Emergency Management is the 2010 Census block. This means the worker and population counts found in the various reports are tabulated up from 2010 Census blocks. Note however, for efficiency purposes, map overlays do not render the data at the block level and instead offer four higher aggregations: Place, Tract, County, and State.

Q: How does the application handle reporting for event areas that split or cover only a portion of a Census block?

A: The application utilizes an algorithm for determining if a block is inside a selection area. If it is determined to be inside, it is included. If not, then it is excluded. The application does not split blocks and no fractional apportioning of block worker or population data is done.

Q: Does OnTheMap for Emergency Management retain historical event data?

A: Yes. After new events are added, they are retained and searchable (by date or name) and are available for viewing anytime. Historical data through the start of 2011 exists for Hurricanes and Tropical Storms, Wildfires, and Flood Outlook Areas. Historical data through the start of 2012 exists for Disaster Declaration Areas and Snow and Freezing Rain Probability Forecasts.

Q: Does OnTheMap for Emergency Management offer reporting for areas impacted by tornadoes?

A: No. At this time, OnTheMap for Emergency Management does not offer reporting for tornadoes due to the very unpredictable and narrow impact areas as well as a lack of an authoritative source for such data.

Q: What is the wind speed of the hurricane and tropical storm data?

A: Hurricanes and tropical storms are displayed in the map viewer if they have sustained winds of tropical storm force (34 Knots). The NHC begins generating wind areas for storms that meet this criteria and OnTheMap for Emergency Management automatically integrates this data as it becomes available.

Q: Some event areas extend beyond the U.S. borders. Are workforce and population data reported for areas outside the U.S.?

A: No, the workforce and population data in OnTheMap for Emergency Management exist only for U.S. Census blocks.

Q: Why are some Disaster Declaration Areas darker than others?

A: Some Disaster Declaration Areas appear to be a darker orange than the color listed on the Map tab legend. Darker orange areas occur where there are more than one declared disaster. Clicking on one of these areas opens the popup listing each disaster declaration by name.

Q: Why does the chart display the message 'No Data Available for the Report'?

A: This message is displayed when the event area or a portion of the event area does not fall within the geography specified in the 'Geography Type' dropdown. OnTheMap for Emergency Management reports default to Places as the Geography Type. Try changing the Geography Type to Counties, Census Tracts, or States.

Q: How do I send suggestions and comments about the application?

A: Please send an email to CES.Local.Employment.Dynamics@census.gov